

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC)
City of Rosemead
November 26, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held at the Garvey Center, FGT Room 9108, Garvey Avenue Rosemead, CA 91770 and via conference call at the California Natural Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Conference Room 1306, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Chair Colonna called the meeting to order at approximately 3:40pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Frank Colonna, Chair
Mr. Dan Arrighi, Vice Chair
Mr. Denis Bertone
Ms. Barbara Carrera
Ms. Margaret Clark
Mr. Troy Edgar
Mr. Patrick O'Donnell
Mr. Edward Wilson

Mr. Pedro Reyes (for Ms. Matosantos)
Mr. Bryan Cash (for Secretary Laird)
Ms. Teresa Villegas (for Supervisor Molina)
Mr. Jon Bishop
Mr. Stan Chen (for Mr. Stetson)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Bernie Weingardt
Ms. Gail Farber
Mr. John Donnelly

Mr. Jess Carbajal
Colonel R. Mark Toy

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Valerie Thompson, Executive Secretary
Terry Fujimoto, Deputy Attorney General
Luz Torres, Project Manager
Marybeth Vergara, Project Manager

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Odling and Michael Barba, Friends of the Whittier Narrows Nature Center, commented on the Discovery Center project.

Matthew Teutimez and Ernest Salas Teutimez, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians, commented on the Discovery Center project.

Teresa Young and Mr. Valladolid also commented on the Discovery Center project.

4. PRESENTATION TO BOARD MEMBER BARBARA CARRERA

This was Board member Carrera's last day as an RMC Board member. Chair Colonna thanked her for her dedicated service to the Board and presented her with a memento.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no corrections noted.

Vice Chair Arrighi motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Ayes = 10; Nays = 0; Abstention = 1.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report was given.

7. DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

No report was given.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

8. LEGISLATIVE

The Executive Officer mentioned that the re-election of President Obama may be good for the Conservancy in moving forward with open space and recreation projects.

9. CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SUPPORT BUDGET

The Executive Officer gave a summary on the bond funds, future projects, support budget, and advance requests.

10. CUMULATIVE GRANT PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY

The Executive Officer reported that there are 45 active projects and 141 completed projects.

11. PROJECT AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

The Executive Officer gave an update on the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, the Disadvantage Communities Committee, Bellflower Riverview Park Project, and the Colorado Lagoon Re-vegetation and Restoration Project.

12. PRESENTATION ON THE DUCK FARM PROJECT

The item was tabled until the next Board meeting in January.

13. PRESENTATION ON THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER PROJECT

The Executive Officer gave a presentation update on the San Gabriel River Discover Center Project. The topics covered in the presentation included the organizational structure; Project Orientation: mission, goals, history, project components, location of outdoor exhibits, exterior and interior rendering, exhibit plan, budget, funding secured to date, partners, and website design; Environmental Education: EcoVoices, EcoVoices goals, EcoVoices Science Expeditions, EcoVoices funding; Discover Center Foundation: community partners, roles and responsibilities, strategic direction, authority team and foundation team, and contact information. Ms. Clark requested clarification of the timeline, and suggested that the Discovery Center create a subcommittee that could work with groups who are in opposition to the project. She voiced concerns about funding a project that draws as much opposition as the Discovery Center, and questioned whether asphalt will replace wetlands. Mr. Stanley explained that he is willing to work with the opposition and addressed the issues. There was discussion regarding future funding and funding sources, authority Board meetings and community meetings. Ms. Clark also voiced concerns about members of the community not being heard. Chair Colonna mentioned that while there are some who oppose the project, there are many who support it. Mr. Stanley noted that there are several school districts and cities throughout the area that support the project, and that there has been community outreach. Chair Colonna requested that the Executive Officer have a discussion at the next Discovery Center Board meeting regarding the issues that were raised and report back to the RMC Board. Henrietta Salazar noted an error in the presentation regarding the actual amount donated by Central Basin.

REGULAR CALENDAR

14. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE BAY CITY PARTNERS, LLC, DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER SPECIFIC PLAN AREA IN THE CITY OF SEAL BEACH

Mr. Greg Hastings, City of Seal Beach, gave a presentation on the project along the San Gabriel River which is 6.5 acres of open space that will be donated to the City at no cost to the public for the DWP Specific Plan Implementation Project (a joint project by the City of Seal Beach and the Bay City Partners). The topics included the project location, project area, project area components, project opportunities, project history, agreements, the project plan, approved specific plan, overall plan with River's End Staging Area, Visitor Serving Passive Open Space Master Plan (and overall objective), Vista Rest Area and Interpretive Area, Trail Side Rest Area, planting diagram and proposed plant communities, and tree locations.

Mr. Wilson voiced concerns about supporting a residential or commercial project concept, and requested clarification as to whether or not the Board would be approving the entire project or just the open space component. Mr. Stanley explained that the approval would only be for the open space portion of the project not the commercial development portion of the project. There was discussion regarding residential support and opposition. Chair Colonna suggested that #3 of the resolution be amended to include language that would specify approval of the open space portion of the project.

Mr. Wilson also suggested striking 'Power Specific Plan' from #3 of the resolution. Mr. O'Donnell mentioned that the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) Board declined to support the project as it is outside of the authority of the LCWA. He also noted that it is within the RMC's authority. Chair Colonna directed staff to amend the language in the resolution.

Mr. Cash motioned to approve the resolution as amended; Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes =11; Nays = 0. No abstentions.

15. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK FOR THE HUNTINGTON PARK TRAILS & OPEN SPACE PROJECT (RMC09112).

The staff report was self-explanatory.

Mr. Cash motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Reyes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0. No abstentions.

16. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF POMONA FOR JEFFERSON PARK ACQUISITION AND PLANNING (RMC08103)

The Executive Officer pointed out two corrections in the recommendation portion of the staff report; August 30, 2013 should be December 31, 2013 for the timeline extension. A background summary and update on the project was given. The Executive Officer noted that the City of Pomona has decided to purchase a federally owned HUD home, tear down the house, and include the lot as part of the newly designed Jefferson Park. It was also noted that additional funding will be provided through Prop. A and that the RMC will not be providing additional funding for the project.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0. No abstentions.

17. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AWARDED A GRANT TO THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVATION CORPS FOR THE COMPTON CREEK NATURAL PARK PROJECT (RMC 12001)

The Executive Officer gave an overview and update on the project noting that approximately two thirds of the project has been completed. It was also noted that the RMC will help fund the project in the amount of \$200,000 to help with the completion of the project.

Ms. Villegas left at approximately 5:15pm.

Mr. Bertone motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0. No abstentions.

18. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OTHER PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The Executive Officer explained the purpose of the MOU and gave a background summary and update on the project. It was noted that the Executive Officer sits as a representative of the Leadership Committee and is also the Chair of the Disadvantaged Communities Sub-Committee.

Mr. Reyes motioned to approve the resolution; Mr. Bertone seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Roll Call Vote – Ayes = 11; Nays = 0. No abstentions.

19. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(Comments were not recorded as there was a recording device malfunction.)

20. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting will be held on January 28, 2013 in Rosemead at 3:30pm.

21. ADJOURNMENT UPON COMPLETION OF BUSINESS

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Colonna at approximately 5:27pm.

